

SUMMARY – PROGRAMS RELATED TO SALTON SEA ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION

DRAFT

4/21/04

| Program | Statutory/Regulatory Mandate | Implementing Entity | Description/Highlights | Key Dates |
|--|---|---------------------|---|--|
| Resources Agency ecosystem restoration study | QSA implementing legislation | Resources Agency | Prepare ecosystem restoration study & accompanying environmental document. | Submit to Legislature by 12/31/06. (Study schedule provided separately.) |
| Salton Sea Restoration Fund administration | QSA implementing legislation | DFG | IID, CVWD, and SDCWA required to contribute \$30M to fund administered by DFG. Revenues from IID/DWR/MWD water transfer to be deposited in fund. Monies to be used for environmental & engineering studies related to sea restoration, implementation of conservation measures necessary to protect fish & wildlife dependent on sea, implementation of the preferred alternative, & administrative, technical, and public outreach costs related to preferred alternative development & selection. | IID payments made on yearly schedule. IID has deposited \$90,692 for 2003 & 2004. No dates set for payments by CVWD and SDCWA. |
| QSA water transfers | QSA implementing legislation & QSA agreements | IID, SDCWA, CVWD | In first 15 years of QSA (2003-2017), IID will transfer total of 1.24 MAF to CVWD and SDCWA. Transfer amount reaches a maximum annual quantity of 203 TAF in 2026 (year 24 of QSA). QSA water agencies relieved from further obligations for Salton Sea restoration; IID held harmless from effects to sea or bordering areas due to conservation measures. Programs to address transfer impacts described below. | QSA term is 45 years, 75 years if renewed. |

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| SWRCB QSA water transfer mitigation | SWRCB Order for QSA water transfers | IID as ordered by SWRCB | Requires 800 TAF of make-up water to sea during initial 15 years. Salinity and elevation monitoring required. Air quality monitoring/mitigation plan required – to cover construction, land fallowing and long-term shoreline recession impacts. Report on Se discharge to sea required prior to implementing 25 TAF of efficiency conservation. Specified conservation actions required for tamarisk scrub, drain habitat, desert pupfish. Comply with ESA, CESA, FPS requirements (see entries below) and create up to 652 ac of managed marsh habitat over 15 years from issuance of take permits. Relocate recreational facilities as shoreline recedes (years 15+). | IID fallowing program is providing make-up water now. Salinity & elevation monitoring plan due within 1 year. Air quality actions relating to shoreline recession implemented as water level drops (years 15+). |
| ESA compliance for initial QSA-related activities | 2001 & 2002 USFWS Biological Opinions | IID, CVWD, SDCWA | Reintroduce 20,000 razorback suckers by 2006 and restore 44 ac of lower river backwater habitat by 2008. Restore up to 372 ac of cottonwood-willow habitat, replace up to 744 ac of same along lower river by 2008. Install 2 major pelican roost sites at Pacific Ocean by 2018. Implement various pupfish actions around sea & drains, create 73 ac of managed marsh habitat | Varies, see description. |

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| CESA compliance for QSA water transfers | Fish & Game Code Section 2081 | IID, SDCWA, DFG | Provide mitigation along the Lower Colorado River and in Imperial Valley for impacts associated with water transfer & ongoing O&M of IID facilities. In-valley incidental take permit will be rolled into NCCP when completed. | Permits in final review phase |
| ESA/NCCP/FPS long-term compliance for QSA | QSA implementing legislation, detailed further in Environmental Cost-Sharing, Funding, and Habitat Conservation Plan Development Agreement | IID, CVWD, SDCWA | Develop and seek approval of a federal habitat conservation plan and California natural community conservation plan (HCP/NCCP) providing ESA/CESA/FPS compliance for long-term implementation of QSA water transfers | Plan approval by 12/31/06, subsequent implementation over term of QSA. DFG & applicants are in process of scheduling first meeting. |
| QSA Joint Powers Authority (JPA) | QSA implementing legislation, detailed further in QSA JPA Creation and Funding Agreement | DFG, IID, CVWD, SDCWA | JPA administers the \$133 million in water transfer mitigation funds that IID, CVWD, and SDCWA are required to provide. Also administers mitigation funds to be provided by State, if QSA water transfer mitigation exceeds \$133 million. Covered actions include administering funds for HCP/NCCP implementation. | Ongoing over term of QSA. Approved budget for 2003-04 and developing budget for 2004-05. |
| IID/DWR/MWD water transfer | QSA implementing legislation, QSA- related agreements | IID, DWR, MWD | IID to sell up to 1.6 MAF of water to DWR, for DWR to sell to MWD, under legislatively set terms, to create revenue for Salton Sea restoration fund. Transfers conditional upon legislatively required finding of compatibility with Secretary's preferred alternative, environmental permitting, and preparation of site-specific EIR/EIS. | Transfer schedule established in existing contracts, specified amounts from 2003-2017. Site-specific EIR/EIS to be prepared concurrently with Resources Agency PEIR for ecosystem restoration. |

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| Lower Colorado River Multispecies Conservation Plan (LCRMSCP) | ESA/CESA/FPS compliance for existing LCR water and power operations | Federal agencies, Tribes, States of AZ, NV, CA, and water & power users in those states | Completing ten-year planning process for obtaining long-term (50-year) incidental take authorizations. Plan includes more than 8,000 ac of habitat acquisition or restoration for 27 covered species. Estimated cost of \$620 million, assuming 30-yr build-out for habitat restoration. | Draft EIR/EIS to be released for comment Spring 2004. Anticipate signing Record of Decision by end of 2004, begin implementation in 2005. (Existing Biological Opinion for river operations terminates in April 2005.) Will need cost-sharing agreements, plan to seek federal authorizing legislation. |
| Salton Sea Authority preferred alternative | N/A | SSA | SSA established in 1993 via a JPA. Participated in preparing USBR's 2000 EIS/EIR for whole sea restoration, subsequent demo of solar evap ponds & enhanced evap systems from 2000 report. In 2002, voted to study US Filter proposal, in 2003 endorsed an "integrated water management plan" involving a northern lake. With USBR, performed initial geotechnical exploration/testing related to a northern lake in 2003-4. | SSA Board expected to adopt a new preferred alternative at its April 22, 2004 board meeting. |
| RWQCB Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) implementation | Clean Water Act (CWA) | RWQCB oversees compliance by dischargers | CWA requires states to identify impaired waterbodies and to develop TMDLs for pollutants affecting the waterbodies. Long-term TMDL implementation intended to improve quality of the receiving waters. Voluntary implementation of irrigation & drainage best management practices key part of sediment TMDLs. | Sedimentation/siltation TMDLs approved for New River (2003) and Alamo River (2002); New River pathogen TMDL approved in 2002. Subsequent triennial review process for adopted TMDLs. RWQCB working on TMDLs for Coachella Valley stormwater pathogens, IID agricultural drain sedimentation/siltation (public comment period on TMDL report just ended), and New River trash & dissolved oxygen. |